



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Desert District Office

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92553

www.ca.blm.gov



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Public Notice

Restriction Order Pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations Subpart 8364.1

Effective immediately, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) California Desert District hereby imposes a restriction on all off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in wash zones associated with designated Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMAs) within the Northern and Eastern Colorado (NECO) desert bio-region. This restriction results from an order issued by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, dated December 30, 2004 (Case No. C03-2509 SI) and is implemented through BLM regulations at 43 CFR 8364.1.

This order restricts OHV use in the following described public lands: the Chemehuevi and Chuckwalla DWMAs defined in the NECO Plan. The closure affects approximately 218,711 acres in the Chemehuevi DWMA and 352,633 acres in the Chuckwalla DWMA. The restriction adds to portions of the two DWMAs in which large networks of washes were closed by way of the NECO Record of Decision (ROD) signed in December 2002. The general areas of the two DWMAs are shown in the Proposed Plan-Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the NECO Plan, Map 2-10. The map specifically displays those washes areas which were closed in the ROD (Closed Washes Zones) and those affected by way of this order (Open Washes Zones). With this order, no washes zones within the NECO DWMAs are open to OHV use.

This order does not affect other NECO Plan access decisions, including the open route designation for 4,743 miles of roads, of which 1,694 miles are located within the two DWMAs and shown on Map 2-32 of the NECO FEIS.

Penalties for violation are specified in 43 CFR 8360.0-7 (maximum fine not to exceed \$1,000 and imprisonment not to exceed 12 months. This restriction order remains in effect until a new biological opinion is issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A map of the areas affected is available on the BLM website at www.ca.blm.gov. Maps are also posted and available at the BLM Palm Springs, El Centro and Needles Field Offices. For further information contact Richard Crowe at the BLM's Desert District (951) 697-5216.


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